Message Text

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TAGS: SREF, ICEM, CI

SUBJ: US CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM L.A. PROGRAM

REF: STATE 217677

- 1. SUMMARY. SINCE SEPT 11 COUP ICEM HAS BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN CHILE. IT IS WORKING WITH APPARENTLY ENTHUSIASTIC GOC COOPERATION ON PROGRAM TO AID CHILEAN PROFESSIONALS CURRENTLY LIVING IN EUROPE TO RETURN HOME. PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS SEEM HIGH. END SUMMARY.
- 2. ACCORDING TO SOURCES WITHIN GOC FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ICEM ITSELF, ICEM'S PROGRAM TO BRING SKILLED EUROPEANS TO CHILE WAS HAMPERED DURING ALLENDE GOVT BY GENERAL POLITIZATION OF MOST MAJOR INDUSTRIES AND UNIVERSITIES AS WELL AS BY GOC SUSPICION THAT ICEM SERVING AS CIA FRONT. TO ALLAY SUCH SUSPICIONS ICEM AGREED TO CONVERT CHILEAN OFFICE (AS OPPOSED SOUTHERN CONE REGIONAL OFFICE ALSO LOCATED IN SANTIAGO) INTO STRICTLY ADVISORY AGENCY CONTROLLED BY NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE. ARRANGEMENT HAS APPARENTLY NOT PROVED VERY SATISFACTORY.
- 3. WITH CHANGE OF GOVT, ICEM HAS BEGUN ACTIVE COOPERATION WITH GOC IN INCIPIENT RETURN OF PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM. SELECTION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHILEANS TO RECEIVE ICEM ASSISTANCE TO RETURN FROM EUROPE WILL

BE BASED UPON GOC RECOMMENDATIONS OF URGENT HIGHLY SKILLED MANPOWER NEEDS IN CRITICAL AREAS, E.G. COPPER INDUSTRY, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITIES, ETC.

- 4. ICEM CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH GOC-OWNED STEAMSHIP AND AIRLINE COMPANIES FOR REDUCED FARES AS WELL AS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR CUSTOMS ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNING CITIZENS. ICEM REP REPORTS EXCELLENT COOPERATION.
- 5. GOC FONMIN OFFICIAL HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOC KEENLY INTERESTED IN NEW ICEM PROGRAM AND WILL OFFER ALL COLLABORATION. OFFICIAL ALSO STATED THAT GOC INTENDS TO PAY ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION TO ICEM LA PROGRAMS AND TO REPAY OUTSTANDING DEBT TO ICEM AS SOON AS FINANCIALLY FEASIBLE.
- 6. COMMENT. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT RETURN OF PROFESSIONALS PROGRAM CAN SERVE TO AID RECOVERY OF CHILEAN ECONOMY. WHILE DECISION RELATING TO US' SHARE OF ICEM'S LA PROGRAM BUDGET MUST, OF COURSE, BE MADE BY DEPT AFTER VIEWING LARGER PICTURE, WE FEEL THAT, AT LEAST IN CHILE, PROSPECTS FOR INCREASED ICEM EFFECTIVENESS IN SHORT RUN ARE HIGH.

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